

News and Information From:



National Bison Association

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MN Rancher Tom Barthel Named Bison Assn. Member of the Year

DENVER, CO (January 31, 2020) – Minnesota rancher Tom Barthel was honored as the National Bison Association’s 2019 Member of the Year last Friday night in recognition for his behind-the-scenes work in improving the organization’s policies and procedures.

Barthel and his wife, Gail Wilkinson, own and operate a diversified livestock operation near Becker, MN. They market field-harvested bison and beef meat from their ranch and offer on-farm tours and other agritourism events.

He stepped down as the bison association’s Secretary-Treasurer last week, after serving a total of five years on the organization’s board of directors.

In announcing Barthel’s recognition as member of the year, National Bison Association Past Presidents’ Council Chair Gail Griffin of Winona, MN, said, “He set the bar high in developing new ways for how the association functions.”

She also cited Barthel’s commitment to soil health and holistic management “long before they even had those names.”

The National Bison Association represents nearly 1,200 bison ranchers, marketers and enthusiasts. More information on the association can be found at www.bisoncentral.com.